



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Charleston District

Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

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What is it?

The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) is sometimes referred to as the Small Projects Authorities. The small refers to the amount of Federal funds spent. Congress appropriates money to the overall program each year, which has standing authorities for the different Corps missions. The authorities are often referred to by a section number, which represents the section of the law that authorized the program, such as Section 205. The CAP covers the Corps' missions of navigation, flood damage reduction, and ecosystem restoration.

What is the process and how long does it take?

Projects and studies under CAP vary in time and cost. However, all studies begin with an initial request from a governmental body or non-profit organization asking the Corps to assess a particular water resource problem. Once a request is received – all that's required is a letter asking for assistance – representatives from the Corps do a field visit to determine which of the CAP authorities apply to the situation.

The next phases vary depending on the problem and the authority. All authorities, however, involve an initial quick reconnaissance type study, followed by a feasibility and plans and specs phase. Sometimes the feasibility study and plans and specs phases are done as one phase. Most initial studies take approximately 3 to 9 months, while feasibility level studies can take approximately 12 months.

The final phase is Operation and Maintenance. Operation and maintenance of projects is the responsibility of the Sponsor. Appropriate information will be provided to the Sponsor at the end of construction.

What does it cost?

- Initial site visits to determine applicability are at full Federal expense.
- Portions of the initial studies are at full Federal expense. The amounts vary according to the authority, but are between \$10,000 and \$100,000.
- The remaining study and construction costs are cost shared at varying rates, depending on the authority. Most are 65% Federal, 35% non-Federal.
- Operation and maintenance of the project is at full non-Federal expense.